DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

San Bernardino County Vector Control Program

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West Nile Virus and Mosquito & Vector Control Awareness Week April 22-28, 2012

San Bernardino: Mosquitoes and warm weather go hand in hand. The California State Legislature declared the week of April 22-28, 2012 as West Nile Virus and Mosquito & Vector Control Awareness Week in California. West Nile virus is a disease spread by mosquitoes that can result in severe illness and even death in humans, horses, some bird species and other wildlife.

"West Nile virus and other mosquito-borne illnesses continue to threaten public health in San Bernardino County," said Joshua Dugas, Program Manager at the County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health, Division of Environmental Health Services. "Because these diseases are transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito, residents should take extra precautions to protect themselves and their families from mosquito bites and prevent mosquito breeding in their neighborhoods."

The following safety precautions are recommended by the County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health, Division of Environmental Health Services – Mosquito and Vector Control Program:

- Eliminate or manage all sources of standing water to discourage mosquito breeding.
- Avoid spending time outside when mosquitoes are most active, especially at dawn and the first two hours after sunset.
- If you are outdoors when mosquitoes are biting, wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts.
- Apply insect repellent containing EPA-registered active ingredients such as DEET, Picaridin, IR3535, and Oil of lemon eucalyptus (PMD). Always apply according to label instructions.
- Make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or holes.
- Contact the County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health, Division of Environmental Health Services - Mosquito and Vector Control Program at (909) 388-4600 if there is a significant mosquito problem or potential mosquito breeding source where you live or work.

For more information about West Nile Virus or Environmental Health Services, contact the County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health, Division of Environmental Health Services at (909) 387-4608 or visit our website at www.sbcounty.gov/dehs.

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